

*Spennymoor*

**THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF SPENNYMOOR**

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**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1956**

TOGETHER WITH THE SUMMARY OF  
WORK OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING OFFICER



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF SPENNYMOOR

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
and  
**OTHER RECORDS**  
**FOR THE YEAR**  
**1956**

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DURHAM :  
G. BAILES & SONS

— —

1957



## INDEX OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Councillors and Staff ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	7
Medical Officer's Introduction ... ... ... ... ... ...	9
Population and Area of District ... ... ... ... ...	10
Inhabited Houses and Rateable Value of District ... ...	10
<b>Statistical Summary—</b>	
Births ... ... ... ... ... ...	11
Deaths ... ... ... ... ...	12
Causes of Death ... ... ... ... ...	12
Tuberculosis ... ... ... ... ...	13
<b>Infectious Diseases Notifications—</b>	
Summary ... ... ... ...	14
Tabular Statement ... ... ...	14
Monthly Incidence ... ... ...	15
Notification by Wards ... ... ...	16
Diphtheria Immunisation ... ... ...	17
<b>Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector—</b>	
Housing ... ... ... ...	18
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 ... ...	19
Public Health and Housing Acts ... ...	20
Public Cleansing ... ... ...	20
Privy Conversions ... ... ...	21
<b>Sanitary Circumstances of the District —</b>	
General Summary ... ... ...	22
Closing and Demolition of Houses ... ...	23
Reconditioning and Repair ... ...	23
Improvement Grants ... ... ...	23
Tabular Statement of new Houses Completed during the Year ... ... ...	23
Rodent Control and Measure of Control by Staff ... ...	24
Insect Infestations ... ... ...	26
<b>Meat and other Foods Inspection, Transport and Handling—</b>	
Summary of Animals Slaughtered ... ...	26
Comparative Statistics ... ...	28
Food Premises (Registration) ... ... ...	29







**THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SPENNYMOOR**

**Chairman of the Council, 1956-57.**

Councillor T. W. Marley.

**Vice-Chairman**

Councillor Mrs. M. Corner.

**Chairman of the Health Committee**

Councillor Miss S. Anderson, J.P.

**Vice-Chairman**

Councillor J. T. Richardson.

**Chairman of the Housing Committee**

Councillor W. Hirst.

**Vice-Chairman**

Councillor T. Sugden.

**COUNCILLORS**

E. Bell, Dr. E. Brauer, T. Chatterton, E. C. Cook, Mrs. B. Dobson, J. C. Glasper  
 M. Hopper, F. Howells, J. T. Kane, J. Livett, J. Main, T. Murray, J. McMahon,  
 B. Taylor, G. Thompson.

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY**

**Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)**

J. M. Hegarty, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

**Public Health Inspectors**

M. W. Swales, M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E.

G. Blenkinsop, Cert. S.I.B.

**Clerical Assistant**

James B. Storey.



Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my 1st Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for the Year 1956.

The Vital Statistics show that the health of your Urban District has been very satisfactory. There have been no cases of Diphtheria, no maternal deaths, only one case of Poliomyelitis and one small outbreak of Dysentery at a children's home. The latter was cut short by the kitchen girl, whom we considered the cause of the outbreak, going on holiday. On her return she was treated in Hospital and there have been no further cases.

The Birth Rate shows an increase on last year.

The infant mortality was lower than last year, though this is still high. Of the fifteen children who died under one year of age, four were due to prematurity and seven to abnormalities.

Eighteen cases of Tuberculosis have been notified during the year. This compares favourably with previous years. If a greater number of people could be persuaded to make use of the Mass Radiography Unit we should be able to clear up more of our unknown sources of infection. Only 1,515 out of a population of 19,920 were X-rayed. No new cases were discovered.

There was a reduction over the previous year in the notification of Scarlet Fever and Measles, but an increase in the notification of Pneumonia, Chicken Pox and Whooping Cough.

Diphtheria Immunisation shows a reduction over 1955.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis was commenced for the first time. Due to the limited amount of vaccine available only forty-one had a full course of two vaccinations and fifty-two one vaccination. There were no adverse reactions. We do not, as yet, know how long the protection will last.

I would like to draw attention to one death—that of a lady of 103 years.

I would like to thank my Committee for the kindness shown to me, and express the pleasure I have had in working for them. I would also like to thank the Staff of the Health Department for their very good work.

I have the honour to be,

Madam Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. HEGARTY,  
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Spennymoor,  
October, 1957.

## Population

The Registrar General's figure calculated to the middle of 1956 gives the resident population of the District as 19,920. This figure represents a decrease of 20 on the previous year and an increase of 880 on the 1939 figure.

The approximate population of the various Wards in the District has been assessed as follows :—

Spennymoor Ward	...	...	4,565
Low Spennymoor Ward	...	...	3,323
Middlestone Moor Ward	...	...	2,212
Kirk Merrington Ward	...	...	947
Byers Green Ward	...	...	1,447
Tudhoe Ward	...	...	7,426
 Total Population	...	...	19,920

## Area

The District covers, 7,494 acres and includes the villages of Middlestone Moor, Byers Green and Kirk Merrington, with an acreage of :—

Spennymoor Ward	...	...	168
Low Spennymoor Ward	...	...	551
Middlestone Moor Ward	...	...	1,349
Kirk Merrington Ward	...	...	1,612
Byers Green Ward	...	...	1,115
Tudhoe Ward	...	...	2,699
 Total Acreage	...	...	7,494

## Inhabited Houses

The estimated number of inhabited houses in the District according to our records at the end of December, 1956, was 6,224.

## Rateable Value

The Rateable Value of the District according to the Rating Officer is £149,926 and the product of a penny rate £553

**STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1956 WITH COMPARISONS  
OF THE PRE-WAR AND POST-WAR PERIODS.**

**Births 1956**

<i>Live Births</i> :—		Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
Legitimate ...	...	163	153	316	
Illegitimate ...	...	8	7	15	16.62
		—	—	—	
		171	160	331	
		—	—	—	

<i>Still Births</i> :—		Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
Legitimate ...	...	8	1	9	
Illegitimate ...	...	—	—	—	0.45
		—	—	—	
		8	1	9	
		—	—	—	

For comparative purposes the rates are given for the three previous years and for the three years immediately prior to the War :—

	Live Births.	Still Births.	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.	
			Live Births.	Still Births.
1936	271	18	17.50	1.17
1937	318	16	17.20	0.86
1938	319	9	16.50	0.46
1953	355	12	17.70	0.40
1954	348	9	17.38	0.45
1955	320	8	16.04	0.46

Extracts from National Statistics are given for comparative purposes :—

		<i>Spennymoor District.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
Births ...	...	16.62	15.7
Still Births ...	...	0.45	23.0

**Deaths 1955**

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate.
Deaths ... ...	123	90	213	10.69
Infant Mortality	6	4	10	30.21 per 1,000 Births.

Pre-War and Post-War periods are enumerated for comparison.

1936	Deaths	193	deaths giving a rate of	12.16 per 1,000 pop.
	Infant Mortality	21	„ „ „	77.50 per 1,000 Births.
1937	Deaths	236	deaths giving a rate of	12.80 per 1,000 pop.
	Infant Mortality	24	„ „ „	75.47 per 1,000 Births.
1938	Deaths	239	deaths giving a rate of	12.30 per 1,000 pop.
	Infant Mortality	19	„ „ „	53.03 per 1,000 Births.
1953	Deaths	213	deaths giving a rate of	10.62 per 1,000 pop.
	Infant Mortality	7	„ „ „	19.72 per 1,000 Births.
1954	Deaths	214	deaths giving a rate of	10.69 per 1,000 pop.
	Infant Mortality	8	„ „ „	22.99 per 1,000 Births.
1955	Deaths	222	deaths giving a rate of	11.13 per 1,000 pop.
	Infant Mortality	11	„ „ „	34.38 per 1,000 Births.

**CAUSES OF DEATH**

		Males	Females
All Causes	... ... ...	123	90
Tuberculosis, respiratory system	... ...	2	—
Tuberculosis, other	... ...	—	—
Syphilitic disease	... ...	—	—
Diphtheria	... ...	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	... ...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	... ...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic disease	... ...	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	... ...	5	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	... ...	5	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	... ...	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	... ...	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	... ...	10	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	... ...	1	—
Diabetes	... ...	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	... ...	13	15
Coronary disease, angina	... ...	23	15
Hypertension with heart disease	... ...	3	—
Other heart disease	... ...	13	12
Other circulatory disease	... ...	5	4
Influenza	... ...	—	1
Pneumonia	... ...	7	8
Bronchitis	... ...	11	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	... ...	3	—

					Males.	Females
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	4	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	—	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	—	1
Hyper-plasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	3	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	4	11	—
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	—	—
All other accidents	...	...	...	4	2	—
Suicide	...	...	...	2	1	—

Heart diseases and those of the nervous system account for 48.4% of the total number of deaths.

### Deaths according to Age Groups

	-5	-15	-25	-50	-75	75-	Total all ages.
Males	...	9	1	—	13	55	45
Females	...	6	1	—	4	42	37
							213

### TUBERCULOSIS 1956

The following cases remained on the Register at the end of the year :—

	Pulmonary.	Non Pulmonary.
Males	...	88
Females	...	75
	—	—
	163	49
	—	—

The above figures represent a reduction of two cases on the previous year.

The number of deaths from the disease represents .94% of the cases on the register, this being 2.33% below last year's figure.

The number of known Tuberculosis cases in the District represents 1.06% of the population, this being .01% below last year's figure.

**SUMMARY OF  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATIONS**

Age Group.	Under						25 years & over.
	1 yr.	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	
Scarlet Fever Male	...	—	1	—	1	—	—
Female	...	—	2	2	7	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	Male	—	1	—	—	—	—

**Tuberculosis**

**MALES**

Pulmonary	...	...	—	—	—	—	3	4
Meninges and C.N.S.			—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	2

**FEMALES**

Pulmonary	...	...	—	—	—	1	2	4
Meninges and C.N.S.			—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	1

**TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE NOTIFICATION OF  
OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE DISTRICT  
DURING THE YEAR**

Disease.							Cases notified.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	83

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than TUBERCULOSIS) during 1956

## MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFICATIONS

Disease.	Month											Year		Totals.
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Enteric or Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Poliomyelitis Acute—													—	
Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	
MONTHLY TOTALS	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	256	
	14	9	53	26	23	13	10	18	47	8	12	23		

## NOTIFICATIONS BY WARDS (CIVILIAN)

Disease	Spenny-moor	Low Spenny-moor	Middle-stone moor	Byers Green	Kirk Merrington	Tudhoe	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	...	2	1	1	8	16
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	3	—	2	9	14	2
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis Acute	...	—	—	1	—	—	1
Paralytic	...	—	—	—	4	—	—
Non-Paralytic...	...	—	—	3	—	—	21
Measles	...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	—	1	—	5	54	83
Chicken Pox	...	7	11	6	3	3	36
Whooping Cough	...	25	9	20	—	—	96
Dysentery	...	1	2	1	—	—	23
Food Poisoning	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
TUBERCULOSIS—					—	—	5
Pulmonary	...	8	—	—	—	—	3
Non-Pulmonary	...	1	—	—	—	—	4

## Diphtheria Immunisation.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the Year.

The following particulars have been supplied by the County Authority of immunisation work relating to the Area for the Year under review :—

	Under 5 years inclusive.	Age 5-15 years inclusive.
Total number of children immunised during 1956	... 138	2

In addition twenty-five reinforcing injections have been administered to children in the Area.

**To the Chairman and Members  
of the Spennymoor Urban District Council**

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in reporting on the work of your Public Health Inspectors during the Year 1956.

**Housing.**

During the Year 1956, the Council's Slum Clearance programme was continued. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed the Clearance of areas at Tudhoe Colliery consisting of 136 houses ; in addition, Closing and Demolition Orders were made by the Council upon 66 Individually Unfit properties.

The Council's building activities resulted in the completion of 151 new houses during the Year—these houses were erected on the Middlestone Moor Estate. Work continued on the provision of a new outfall sewer to take further extensions to this Estate.

The above new houses, together with the occasional relets in existing houses, has enabled the Council to rehouse 73 families from Slum Clearance Areas, 34 families from Individually Unfit property and a further 92 families from the Housing Waiting Lists. Of this latter number, 23 of the applicants were sub-tenants.

The Council also continued its policy of giving every assistance to owners to improve the houses where found to be economically and structurally worthwhile. The Council has approved Improvement Grants in 70 of the 73 applications made to it since the Housing Act, 1949, became operative.

The rehousing of several tenants from the Attwood Terrace, Tudhoe Colliery back-to-back houses, has enabled the respective owners to make a start with the reconditioning as "through houses" with the assistance of Improvement grants approved by the Council. Similar work was completed during the Year on the Edward Street properties.

The Housing Waiting Lists have not been repointed or revised during the Year. The numbers continue to increase from 1,001 at the end of 1955 to 1,174 at the end of the Year 1956.

**Housing, Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.**

The following is a summary of the number of applications received since the above Act became operative :—

## HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

Certificates of Disrepair issued by the Urban District Council under section 26 (1) of the above Act between 30th August, 1954, and 31st December, 1956.

	Number of applications for Certificates.	Number granted.	Number refused.	Number of applications for revocation of Certificates.	Number refused.	Number refused.
(a) Dwellinghouses which have been the subject of a Notice of Repairs increase under Part II of the 1954 Act ...	29	25	4	2	1	1
(b) Dwellinghouses which have <b>not</b> been the subject of a Notice of Repairs increase of rent under the 1954 Act but in respect of which permitted increases of rent are recoverable under section 2 (1) (c) and (d) of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920.				—	—	—

## Public Health and Housing Acts.

The Council has continued to require the remedy of structural defects in property, using the procedure of the Public Health Acts whenever applicable, in preference to action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, as amended by Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The legal formalities of the Public Health Act have proved very effective in the small number of cases where it was found necessary to resort to this action. The "Unfitness" provision of Section 9, as amended, considerably reduces the number of cases which can be dealt with under the Housing Acts.

Although the number of Statutory Notices served, shows a considerable increase over the previous year, this is accounted for by the service of notices under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the conversion of ashclosets—This work being performed during the Year by a Council Contractor.

## Public Cleansing.

The work of refuse collection and disposal has been satisfactory, due to a large measure to the willing co-operation of the staff in making good, by overtime working, any temporary shortages of staff through illness and holidays. This has enabled us to maintain a weekly collection throughout the District, with few complaints from the residents.

Approximately 2,000 ashclosets have now been converted to the "Water Carriage System" since the War and the substitution of British Standard Specification bins for the foul receptacles of the former closets has made the work of our staff less unpleasant.

Paper Salvage has not proved so remunerative to the Council during the Year, owing to the restriction of deliveries from local authorities to the mills. We have been compelled to burn substantial quantities of our normal Salvage collections each month. These collections are principally from business premises from which we bale the more valuable and marketable fibre board ; the remainder, together with any received from domestic premises, has to be disposed of at present by incineration. A Council lorry is fully employed in collecting salvage from the various bays in the Trading Estate and from the larger business premises. The demand for scrap tins has continued to be good, but this material presents difficulties in storing and transporting. Scrap iron and rags have almost ceased to be received at the Salvage Depot, due to a great extent by the return of itinerant collectors to our streets.

The increasing quantities of tins arriving at the Council refuse tips are not proving a great obstacle to satisfactory disposal, as the bulldozer employed in levelling and consolidating very effectively flattens such material.

### Privy Conversions.

During the Year 305 ashclosets were converted to the "Water Carriage System". 278 of these conversions were carried out by the Council contractor, the owner's of the remainder preferred to have their work carried out by other contractors.

There remains a hard core of about 500 ashclosets in National Coal Board properties which require outbuilding rebuilding and the provision of yard space, before the present receptacle can be demolished. This matter has been the subject of frequent communications by this Council during the last two years. Unfortunately, the Coal Board appear to be unable to proceed with this work without some major policy changes.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued interest and encouragement during the Year ; to the other Officers of the Council for their unfailing courtesy and co-operation, to the Office Staff for capable and continued effort and to the Foreman and members of the Cleansing Staff for carrying out their often unpleasant duties in a very creditable manner.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

M. W. SWALES,  
M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Spennymoor.  
October, 1957.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

**Summary of Notices served and work done in the Public Health Inspector's Department, during the Year, 1956.**

### 1. General Summary.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Informal Notices served.	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied after Notice.	Legal Proceedings and General Remarks.
Housing : Public Health and Housing Acts ...	1044	92	263	298	
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	
Sanitary Conveniences :					
Insufficient ...	3	—	—	1	
Defective ...	325	5	237	242	
Drainage ...	535	439	—	439	
Water Supply ...	10	3	—	1	
Food Premises ...	139	1	—	1	
Shops Act ...	28	—	—	—	
Dairies ... ...	20	—	—	—	
Slaughter Houses :					
Public ... ...	—	—	—	—	
Private... ...	1300	1	—	—	
Tents, Vans, etc.	15	—	—	—	
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	
Factories and Workplaces ...	28	—	—	—	
Keeping of Animals... ...	—	—	—	—	
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	24	12	—	7	
Offensive Accumulations	—	—	—	—	
Smoke Nuisances	6	1	—	1	
Prevention of Damage by Pests					
Act, 1949 ...	251	—	—	—	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3728</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>990</b>	

Ashpit-privies converted into water-closets	...	...	
Ash-closets converted into water-closets	...	...	305
Total number of water-closets in District	...	...	5,300
Total number of ash-closets in District	...	...	1,022
Total number of ash-pit privies in District	...	...	26

## 2. Closing and Demolition of Houses.

### A. Formal Action.

(i) No. of houses demolished during year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	...	...	88
(ii) No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	...	...	40
(iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed	...	...	286
(iv) No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Part I.)	...	...	3

### B. Informal Action.

(i) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above	...	2
---	-----	---

## 3. Reconditioning and Repair.

No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts :

(a) As a result of informal action	...	...	...	45
(b) By owners as a result of statutory notice	...	...	...	15
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	238

## 4. Improvement Grants : Housing Act, 1949.

			No. of separate houses.
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority	...	...	73
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority	...	...	3
(c) Total No. of applications approved since inception of scheme	...	...	70

## 5. Tabular Statement for Year 1956.

	New Houses Completed During Year.	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total.
(a) By Local Authority	...	151	—	151
(b) By any other Housing Authority	...	—	—	—
(c) By private persons	...	1	8	9

## Rodent Control.

Mr. J. W. Greaves, our part-time Rodent Operator has continued to exercise tact and energy in the eradication of any and every source of infestation brought to his notice. Unfortunately Mr. Greaves was absent from work for some considerable time and serious infestations were dealt with in his absence by Mr. McCoy, the Bulldozer Driver, whose training had to be accelerated in order that he could carry out this work, under supervision. No major infestations have been found in the District, and regular inspections have been made of Council properties, particularly refuse tips. The two Knacker Yards have continued to be free from any serious infestations.

MEASURES OF CONTROL BY COUNCIL STAFF

		TYPE OF PROPERTY		
		Non-Agricultural	All Other (including Business Premises).	Total of Columns (1), (2) and (3)
Local Authority.		Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses).		Agricultural.
I.	Number of properties in Local Authority's District	11	6113	834
II.	Number of properties inspected as a result of :			
	(a) Notification ...	1	83	23
	(b) Survey under the Act	—	14	—
III.	Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	3	165	83
IV.	Number of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by :			
	(a) Rats { Major ...	1	—	—
	Minor ...	—	80	14
	(b) Mice { Major ...	—	—	—
	Minor ...	—	17	8
V.	Number of infested properties (in Sec. iv.) treated by the L.A.	1	97	22
VI.	Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ...	—	12	—

## Insect Infestations.

Only 24 houses were treated during the Year for insect infestations, at the request of the occupiers. The majority of these requests were received from new tenants of older properties. Advice was also given in many cases, to such tenants, upon the best methods to adopt to keep their houses free from such vermin.

The Council continued active co-operation with food traders in efforts to keep down fly infestations of such premises and, in consequence, a considerable number of food preparation and storage rooms were sprayed during the warm weather with appropriate insecticides, also DDT powder was provided on request for incorporation in white-washing of such premises. The above practice has been in operation for several years in this District and an increasing number of the food distributors are recognising the advantages of this joint action in keeping their products free from fly contamination.

## Meat and Other Foods Inspection, Transport and Handling.

Since the 1st July, 1954, when the control over slaughtering and meat distribution was discontinued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and reverted to pre-war arrangements, we have found it necessary to devote increasing time to this work.

In the District, there are eight premises licensed as slaughterhouses. Six of these are used by the occupiers, one is shared by two butchers, and another is a comparatively large privately owned slaughterhouse at Middlestone Moor engaged almost wholly in the wholesaling of carcase meat to butchers in the surrounding districts. Also a large proportion of these carcases are forwarded by road transport to the Newcastle Wholesale Market in weekly or bi-weekly consignments. The existence of this wholesale depot is very convenient for those of our butchers preferring to "buy off the hook". This view is also shared by other butchers from as far away as Stanley, who regularly obtain their surplus from this depot. In my opinion the throughput of carcase meat through these premises is now considerably above its structural limit, and there is almost a complete absence of staff amenities, washing facilities and illumination are considerably below a reasonable standard. The owner-occupier of these premises appreciates the limitations and defects, and has promised to extend and rectify these omissions.

During the Year the following animals were killed for human consumption in the above slaughterhouses :—

## WHOLESALE SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

Month.	Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
January	149	20	3	434	223
February	143	20	11	363	216
March	158	22	5	321	183
April	192	13	2	255	175
May	152	19	6	204	180
June	197	20	9	281	149
July	166	25	6	459	142
August	170	29	6	593	222
September	191	32	5	832	214
October	224	36	5	944	290
November	225	27	4	838	295
December	234	20	4	777	436
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,201</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>6,301</b>	<b>2,725</b>

## OTHER SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Month.	Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
January...	36	10	—	100	66
February	40	9	—	98	65
March ...	43	9	—	75	49
April ...	43	8	1	63	44
May ...	48	4	1	58	20
June ...	43	2	2	79	18
July ...	48	—	—	104	7
August ...	47	—	—	114	6
September	39	3	—	93	10
October	62	3	—	115	11
November	46	13	1	73	11
December	47	3	1	47	65
<b>Totals</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>372</b>

The total number of carcases examined during the Year consisted of 13,579—of this total, 11,576 were killed in the large slaughterhouse, Sunday slaughtering at these premises accounted for 1,836 carcases, with an average of 43 animals each Sunday in January to 61 animals each Sunday in December, 1956.

### Comparative Statistics.

#### Pre-War and Post Control Slaughtering.

	Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total Animals.
Year 1937 ...	784	176	15	450	480	1,905
Year 1938 ...	828	240	12	252	420	1,752
July-Decem- ber, 1954 (6 months) ...	509	67	9	1,035	948	2,568
Year 1955 ...	1,887	203	43	4,935	2,221	9,289
Year 1956 ...	2,742	344	74	7,318	3,087	13,579

Every endeavour is made to secure the inspection of every animal killed within the District for food, and this has resulted in less time of the Additional Public Health Inspector and myself being available for other duties. In addition, Slum Clearance inspections and the supervision of a further Privy Conversion Scheme has left little time for routine inspections.

## Food Premises (Registration).

The number of food premises registered in the District are summarised herewith :—

Grocers	...	...	58	Confectioners	...	18
Bakehouses	...	...	6	Cafes	...	4
Butchers	...	...	20	Ice-cream Manufacturers		3
Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	47
Premises registered for the preparation of food under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	14
Premises registered for the sale of designated Milk under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954	...	...		...	...	47

## Food Inspections, Visits and Sampling.

Many visits were made to food premises during the Year, and very satisfactory co-operation was obtained from the managements and staffs of the various premises visited. Considerable difficulty was experienced by the staff of the North Eastern Trading Estate Canteen to carry on the canteen, while very extensive alterations were undertaken. The active co-operation of the Architects, the Contractor and the canteen staff was however, obtained, and very satisfactory improvements were carried out in conjunction with the hygienic operation of the kitchen and service facilities.

Two ice-cream samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle-on-Tyne and were placed in Grade 1 and 2 respectively. Nine water samples were also submitted for bacteriological examination—the results of which were satisfactory.

## Ice-Cream.

Visits were made to the three ice-cream manufacturers' premises and it was apparent that every care was taken to produce a hygienically satisfactory product. Many shops also retail the pre-packed ice-cream products of large manufacturers, the cartons of blocks being stored in refrigerated cabinets, thus the chance of contamination from other articles sold in the general shops is reduced to the minimum.

## Fish Fryers.

A satisfactory standard of cleanliness appears to be maintained by the various fish fryers in the District. Particulars of these are listed below :—

Ward.	Street.	No. of premises available.
Spennymoor	Clyde Terrace ...	2
	Clarence Street ...	1
	Villier Street ...	1
Low Spennymoor	Coulson Street ...	1
	Post Office Street ...	1
	Front Street, Merrington Lane	1
Middlestone Moor	Durham Street ...	1
Kirk Merrington	Chapel Street ...	1
Byers Green	High Street ...	2
Tudhoe	Attwood Terrace ...	2
	Tudhoe Moor ...	1
	Wood Vue ...	1
	King Street ...	2
	Durham Road ...	1
	York Hill Crescent ...	1

Several fryers have appreciated their obligations to prevent litter and they have therefore provided litter baskets within close proximity to their premises.

## Milk Supplies.

The many small dairymen and shops distributing the designated milks, Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested and Sterilised in the District, obtain their supplies from the following manufacturer's plants :—

Milk Marketing Board, Langley Moor.  
 East Durham Co-operative Dairies, Wingate.  
 Bishop Auckland Co-operative Dairy, Bishop Auckland.  
 Northern Dairies (M'bro.) Ltd., Middlesbrough.  
 Craven Dairies Ltd., Sunderland.

The following is a summary of the numbers and types of retailers licences operating in the District :—

Retailers Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	21
Retailers Pasteurised	...	24
Retailers Sterilised	...	17

## Disposal of Unsound Food.

Condemned meat is removed under supervision from the slaughter-houses to one of the two local knacker yards. Diseased offal is similarly removed or buried on one of the refuse tips. Condemned tinned foods are also dealt with at a tip or disposed of for animal feeding.

The following articles were examined during the Year and found to be unfit for food and destroyed :—

118 lbs. Tomatoes.	96 Tins Evaporated Milk.
30 lbs. Stewed Steak.	61 lbs. Peas.
48½ lbs. Luncheon Meat.	24½ lbs. Pears.
60 lbs. Corned Beef.	20 lbs. Chicken.
51 lbs. Pineapple.	18 lbs. Cooked Ham.
21 lbs. Oranges.	15 lbs. Baked Beans.
13 lbs. Peaches.	38 lbs. Potato <del>s</del> Powder.
7 lbs. Beef Slice.	18½ lbs. Ox Tongue.
16 lbs. Sausage Meat	90 Tins Miscellaneous food stuffs.

## Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ... ... ...	2,742	344	74	7,318	3,088	—
Number of carcases inspected ...	2,742	344	74	7,318	3,088	—
All diseases except tuberculosis : and Cysticerci : Whole carcases condemned ...	2	3	—	3	2	—
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1,189	136	—	111	68	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and Cysticerci :	43.36 % 39.53 %	—	—	1.51 % 2.20 %	—	—
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcases condemned	1	—	1	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	95	50	—	—	14	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ... ...	3.46 % 14.53 %	1.35 % —	—	—	.45 % —	—
Cysticercosis : Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned ... ... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Amount of Carcase meat condemned 4,484 lbs.

Amount of Offal condemned 16,856 lbs.

### **Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Amendment Regulations, 1954.**

The following summary refers to animals not for human consumption in the reception of live and dead horses by the two Knacker Yards in the District. Live animals were slaughtered at the owner's premises before removal in every case :—

1956	Horses.			Ponies.	
	Live.	Dead.		Live.	Dead.
January ...	12	3		13	—
February ...	2	4		13	3
March ...	6	—		11	—
April ...	6	1		10	1
May ...	4	—		6	—
June ...	2	2		10	—
July ...	3	—		12	—
August ...	4	—		10	—
September ...	3	1		17	—
October ...	1	2		8	—
November ...	—	2		5	2
December ...	6	1		10	—

### **Contagious Disease of Animals Act, 1878, 1886.**

Two outbreaks of anthrax were reported during the Year, which involved the staffs of the knacker yards. Each member was visited and advised upon the precautionary measures to take.

### **Clean Food Propaganda.**

Byelaws relating to the Sanitary Conditions and Management of Private Slaughterhouses, were brought into operation during the Year. Compliance with the provisions of these byelaws will bring our slaughterhouses to a reasonable standard.

The prepacking of food is becoming increasingly popular. So long as we are assured that this prepacking is done under hygienic conditions the public are being offered food in the best possible condition.

**BREADWRAPPING.** The Council has persevered in an endeavour to have the pre-wrapping of bread before it is handed to the housewives. This matter has been the subject of discussion and great effort by this Council, to secure local and possibly national support for the compulsory pre-wrapping of bread.

## Water Supply.

With the exception of certain isolated properties, the whole of the Urban District is served through a piped supply by the Durham County Water Board. One small group of property situated in the Windlestone area was formerly served by private estate mains, these have now been taken over by the above Water Board. The new service mains and connections have resulted in a considerably increased supply to these houses.

Nine water samples were submitted for bacteriological analysis during the Year and eight proved satisfactory. Particulars of the remaining sample were communicated to the Water Board and immediate remedial measures were taken.

No samples were submitted for chemical analysis during the Year.

Certain inadequacies of supply have been made apparent in older properties where W.C. conversions have been installed, these have been brought to the notice of the Water Board for main scraping or other improvements.

For the second year in succession it has been necessary for the Water Board to curtail water supplies during prolonged dry summer periods. The Public usually take for granted that the water supply is pure and adequate in quantity for any calls they may make upon the supply. It is very disturbing when this supply is cut or so restricted that normal domestic arrangements and possibly the livelihood of some, might be severely curtailed. In addition, there is the possibility of main contamination usually suspected with "Intermittent" supplies.

## Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The whole of the District with the exception of properties at Todhills is sewered and the effluent treated at disposal plants situated at Byers Green and Tudhoe Village.

The Village of Kirk Merrington is drained to a pumping station at Leasingthorne and is pumped for treatment to the Bishop Auckland Sewage Works at Binchester, under an arrangement between the two Authorities.

The North Close area and certain isolated properties continue to use cesspools, which are regularly inspected and cleansed by Council vehicles.

The numbers of choked drains cleared during the Year, continues to be high. These chokages are usually found to occur in the older properties where the drains are not in good condition. The carrying out of over 2,000 ashcloset conversions in recent years has not resulted in any appreciable increase in drain chokages. The principal material removed when such chokages are cleared is found to be coal dust from miners concessionary coal supplies.

Work has commenced in the laying of a new sewer, connecting the new Housing Estate at Middlestone Moor with the Tudhoe Mill Sewage Disposal Works. The provision of this new outfall sewer should also remedy the occasional flooding experienced in certain properties during exceptionally heavy storms.

### **Public Cleansing.**

This service is carried out by direct labour, with Council vehicles, four lorries and five carts being used for this purpose. In addition, another lorry is engaged solely for the collection of Trade Refuse and Salvage. A small area of old properties in the Byers Green area is also cleansed by a hired cart engaged on a daily basis.

Refuse collections are heavy, due to the quantities of stone our vehicles are required to remove from the bins and receptacles of residents in receipt of miners concessionary coal. The greater proportion of this unburnable material is usually removed by the recipients from each delivery and often left at the kerbside for collection by our vehicles. As coal deliveries are not completed in any particular area at anytime, these unsightly heaps of stone are almost a permanent feature of our housing estates. The screening and grading of this concessionary coal would not only relieve the miners families of unnecessary labour and annoyance, but the refuse collections would be lightened considerably, with the consequent saving in labour and vehicles.

Care has to be taken to see that the Staff do not overload the vehicles, as it is quite possible to do so owing to the heavy character of the refuse.

Facilities are not available for systematically weighing the refuse, and with the breakdown of the British Railways weighbridge seasonal check weighings have not been carried out during the Year. The weight of refuse is therefore calculated from previous check weighings.

During the Year it is estimated that the cleansing vehicles and staff collected and removed to tips the following house refuse :—

4,803 lorry loads with a weight of refuse	...	10,264 tons.
4,874 cart loads with a weight of refuse	...	3,485 tons.
703 hired cart loads with a weight of refuse	...	502 tons.
Estimated total weight of refuse removed	...	14,251 tons.

Two controlled refuse tips situate at Tudhoe Colliery and Middlestone Moor, receives the bulk of this house and trade refuse. Such material removed from Byers Green Village is conveyed to a small crude tip on the outskirts of the Village.

A small angledozer is used in levelling and consolidating the refuse tips and this machine has proved invaluable in this work. This machine is transported by a low loading vehicle from one refuse tip to another. In addition to handling the refuse, it also deals very effectively with the many fires we experience in the tip faces. The machine is, however, becoming somewhat unreliable, owing to the abrasive nature of the material in which it works, tracks and wheels are showing signs of increasing wear in spite of frequent maintenance work. It was never found possible to maintain the refuse tips in a satisfactory condition relying on available manpower, mechanical means for consolidating and levelling are a necessary part of satisfactory refuse disposal.

Standard  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cubic feet capacity dustbins are used for house refuse storage throughout the District with the exception of those properties which still have ash receptacles. The numbers of these various types of receptacles are as follows :—

Standard size dustbins	...	...	...	5,230
Ashclosets	...	...	...	1,022
Ashpits	...	...	...	26

### Salvage.

Owing to increasing supplies of raw material, the paper Mills have found it necessary to restrict the intake of waste paper from local authorities and merchants. In consequence, we have been placed on a monthly quota, which cannot be exceeded. It has, therefore, become necessary to burn considerable quantities of surplus waste paper collected by our vehicles. As this measure was thought to be of a temporary nature, for some time we baled and stored our surplus paper until it became apparent that this material would become a liability rather than an asset, we therefore gradually disposed of this material in the quota consignment.

Scrap tins are now forwarded to the steel works unflattened. As the space available for storage of this material is limited in the Stable Yard only occasional consignments are forwarded, also the prolonged storage of tins would increase the possibility of rodent infestation in the Yard.

Details of materials sold are as follows :—

			Tons.	Cwts.
Waste Paper and Fibreboard	...	181	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Tin Scrap	...	4	9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>7<math>\frac{1}{4}</math></b>	

### Monthly Salvage Sales and Income.

Month.	Material.	Weight.			Income.		
		tons.	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
January	Waste Paper	...	15	8	2	123	8 0
February.	Waste Paper	...	18	6	0	150	4 0
March.	Waste Paper	...	15	19	2	132	3 0
	Tin Scrap	...	1	3	2	4	19 10
April	Waste Paper	...	17	15	2	134	8 10
	Tin Scrap	...	1	14	2	7	6 7
May	Waste Paper	...	15	10	1	119	18 6
June.	Waste Paper	...	14	9	0	122	13 1
July.	Waste Paper	...	23	8	0	200	3 1
	Tin Scrap	...	1	11	0	8	2 9
August.	Waste Paper	...	8	8	0	63	0 0
September.							
October.	Waste Paper	...	17	16	3	133	15 9
November.	Waste Paper	...	12	13	2	95	1 4
December	Waste Paper	...	17	3	1	143	3 7
		186	7	1	£1438	8	4

Waste Paper sales contributed £1,417. 19s. 2d. of the total income from salvage. The income for the Year is lower than that for 1955 is attributed to the operation of the quota upon our salvage consignments.

## Housing.

For the information of the Council, the Council's pre-war and post-war Housing programmes are summarised below:—

### Pre-war period :

Clearance	...	...	...	...	95 houses.
Individually Unfit Property				...	36 houses.

### Post-war period :

Clearance	...	...	...	...	402 houses.
Individually Unfit Property	...			...	146 houses.

### Houses Erected :

#### Pre-war period :

North Eastern Housing Association					280 houses.
Council...	...	...	...	...	66 houses.

#### Post-War period :

Council...	...	...	...	...	1,044 houses.
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## Rehousing and the Demolition of Scheduled Properties.

Housing demolitions and rehousing carried out during the last six years are summarised and shown under the various Wards of the District :—

Ward.	Houses.		Population.	
	Demolished.	Increase.	Reduction.	

*Year 1950-51.*

Spennymoor	...	...	—	129
Low Spennymoor	...	...	—	116
Tudhoe	...	...	—	—
Middlestone Moor	...	...	—	15
Byers Green	...	...	1	—
Kirk Merrington	...	...	—	11

*Year 1951-52.*

Spennymoor	...	...	—	16
Low Spennymoor	...	...	—	58
Tudhoe	...	...	—	—
Middlestone Moor	...	...	—	29
Byers Green	...	...	—	16
Kirk Merrington	...	...	—	—

*Year 1952-53.*

Spennymoor	...	...	—	88
Low Spennymoor	...	...	2	—
Tudhoe	...	...	—	183
Middlestone Moor	...	...	—	35
Byers Green	...	...	—	25
Kirk Merrington	...	...	—	—

*Year 1953-54.*

Spennymoor	...	...	9	—	77
Low Spennymoor	...	...	1	—	37
Tudhoe	...	...	—	101	—
Middlestone Moor	...	...	—	7	—
Byers Green	...	...	—	—	—
Kirk Merrington	...	...	11	17	—

*Year 1954-55.*

Spennymoor	...	...	—	—	10
Low Spennymoor	...	...	—	—	19
Tudhoe	...	...	—	57	—
Middlestone Moor	...	...	—	3	—
Byers Green	...	...	22	—	14
Kirk Merrington	...	...	14	—	10

*Year 1955-56.*

Spennymoor	...	...	55	—	112
Low Spennymoor	...	...	—	—	146
Tudhoe	...	...	—	—	157
Middlestone Moor	...	...	6	557	—
Byers Green	...	...	3	—	133
Kirk Merrington	...	...	2	—	6

## Future Housing Inspections.

Properties to be inspected in the various Wards, with a view of possible action under sections 17 and 42 of the Housing Act, 1957.

Ward.	Properties.	Estimated Population.
<i>Period 1955-60.</i>		
Spennymoor ...	79	256
Low Spennymoor ...	111	360
Tudhoe ...	263	852
Middlestone Moor ...	40	130
Byers Green ...	98	317
Kirk Merrington ...	8	26
	599	1,941
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Period 1960-65.</i>		
Spennymoor ...	41	132
Low Spennymoor ...	53	171
Tudhoe ...	197	638
Middlestone Moor ...	4	13
Byers Green ...	6	19
Kirk Merrington ...	13	42
	314	1,015
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Period 1965-74.</i>		
Spennymoor ...	141	457
Low Spennymoor ...	215	696
Tudhoe ...	29	94
Middlestone Moor ...	113	366
Byers Green ...	25	81
Kirk Merrington ...	11	35
	534	1,729
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## **Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Areas.**

### **(a) Byers Green Ward.**

The rehousing of the 131 tenants in these areas has proceeded satisfactorily. During the Year forty-four tenants have been given accommodation in new Council houses at Middlestone Moor. In addition, several tenants from Individually Unfit properties were also rehoused.

### **(b) Spennymoor Ward (George Street Area).**

Twenty-eight tenants in this area were rehoused by the Council in the Middlestone Moor Estate. Efforts were directed to the rehousing of tenants on the odd side of Catherine Street and Queen Street to make the ground available for new development.

### **(c) Thomas Street Clearance Area.**

With the rehousing during the Year of the one remaining tenant, work has proceeded in the demolition and clearance of this area.

### **(d) Tudhoe Ward (Tudhoe Middle and Back Rows).**

During the Year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed the Council's application of Clearance Orders relating to the 145 houses in the above streets. Only two of these tenants have so far been rehoused in Council properties.

### **(e) Kirk Merrington Areas.**

A further tenant has been rehoused from these areas, leaving only three tenants for future rehousing.

## **The Provision of New Houses.**

### **Period 1936-38.**

North Eastern Housing Association erected      280 houses.

Urban District Council erected      ...      ...      66 houses.

## Period 1945-56.

The Urban District Council has erected, during the post-war period, the following houses :—

St. Paul's Gardens	...	...	...	66 houses.
Park Estate	...	...	190	„
Wood Vue	...	...	54	„
Middlestone Moor Estate	...	...	276	„
George Street	...	...	60	„
Tudhoe Moor Estate	...	...	172	„
York Hill Estate	...	...	104	„
Kirk Merrington Estate	...	...	50	„
Byers Green Estate	...	...	72	„
			<hr/>	
			1,044	„
			<hr/>	

The immediate building programme of the Council is reduced to 37 houses to be erected on an extension of the Byers Green Housing Site at the bottom of the Village.

It is expected that an early start will be made on the preliminary works of roads and sewers, for a further extension of the Middlestone Moor Housing Site.

### Housing Applications.

During the Year the Housing applicants were regrouped under new headings which are enumerated below :—

Slum Clearance	...	...	...	237
General Need Applicants	...	...	...	652
Bungalow Applicants	...	...	...	172
Outside the District Applicants	...	...	...	113
			<hr/>	
Total	...	...	...	1,174
			<hr/>	

The General Need Applicants List consists of applicants living in the Urban District, other applicants living and/or working outside the District are placed in the Outside District List.

The number of families allocated new and vacated Council and North Eastern Housing Association houses during the Year are classed as follows :—

Two-bedroomed Sub-tenants	...	...	18
Two-bedroomed Tenants	...	...	29
Three-bedroomed Sub-tenants	...	...	2
Three-bedroomed Tenants	...	...	32
Four-bedroomed Sub-tenants	...	...	—
Four-bedroomed Tenants	...	...	1
Bungalows (Aged People)	...	...	10
			—
Total	...	...	92
			—

The number of families rehoused from Slum Clearance Property was 73 during the Year, and the number of families rehoused from houses dealt with by Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Act, 1957, was 34.

### Factories Act, 1937.

No complaints were received during the Year of contraventions in Factory premises. Twenty-eight visits were made by the Department to premises registered under Part I of this Act, and found to be satisfactory.

Factories with Power	...	...	...	39
Factories without Power	...	...	...	5





